

PCT

01537426
02 JUN 2005

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB2004/002736	International filing date (day/month/year) 25/06/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 27/06/2003
Applicant LANDOR & HAWA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).

4. With regard to the **title**,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

- ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regards to the **drawings**,

- a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 8
☐ as suggested by the applicant.
☒ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.
- b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/2004/002736

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FR 2 318 602 A (BELLAICHE HERVE) 18 February 1977 (1977-02-18) the whole document	1,2,4,5, 13-17
Y	GB 2 366 512 A (FENG CHI FENG) 13 March 2002 (2002-03-13) page 3, line 2 - page 4, line 14; claims; figures	12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

P/B2004/002736

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9305943	A	01-04-1993	US 5228546 A AU 2667292 A WO 9305943 A1 US 5252161 A	20-07-1993 27-04-1993 01-04-1993 12-10-1993
US 6059078	A	09-05-2000	AU 3663799 A WO 9955190 A1 US 6021874 A	16-11-1999 04-11-1999 08-02-2000
US 6220411	B1	24-04-2001	EP 1097654 A2 JP 2001128719 A	09-05-2001 15-05-2001
FR 2318602	A	18-02-1977	FR 2318602 A1	18-02-1977
GB 2366512	A	13-03-2002	NONE	

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002736

International filing date (day/month/year)
25.06.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
27.06.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
A45C5/00, A45C7/00

Applicant
LANDOR & HAWA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☒ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized Officer

Acerbis, G

Telephone No. +49 89 2399-6895



**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002736

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/002736

Box No. II Priority

1. ☒ The following document has not been furnished:

- ☒ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(a)).
- ☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	6-10
	No: Claims	1-5,11,13-19
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	6-10
	No: Claims	1-5,11,12,13-19
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-19
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

- 1 The following document is referred to in this communication:

D1 : WO 93/05943 A (CHANG S J ; BERMAN JOSEPH J (US)) 1 April 1993
(1993-04-01)

2 **INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1**

- 2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
Document D1 discloses (the references in parenthesis applying to this document):
- 2.2. A method of constructing (see in particular figs 1-4) a hard suitcase characterised by forming a shaped base portion (80) and a shaped lid portion (60) from plastics material (page 2 last paragraph) of such characteristic that the portions retain their intended shape, and attaching to each of said portions the respective zipped portions (70) of a zip fastener arrangement by stitching operation involving a securing thread (figs 8,9, page 27 lines 3 to 12).

3 **INDEPENDENT CLAIM 2**

- 3.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 2 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
Document D1 discloses also the feature of a "frameless" hard suitcase therefore it discloses all the technical features of present claim 2 (see also point 2.2 above)

4 **INDEPENDENT CLAIM 3**

- 4.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 3 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
Document D1 discloses also the following technical features:
- A curvilinear suitcase (see figures)

- A tray like base and lid portion (see figs 2,3)
therefore it discloses all the technical features of present claim 3 (see also point 2.2 above).

5 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 13

5.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 13 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT. Document D1 discloses also the suitcase with all the technical features of present claim 13 (see also point 2.2 above).

6 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 4, 5, 11, 12, 14-19

Dependent claims 4, 5, 11, 12, 14-19 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

7 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 6-10

The combination of the features of dependent claims 6-10 are neither known from, nor rendered obvious by, the available prior art.